

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-9 were previously pending in this application. No claims were amended, canceled or added. As a result, claims 1-9 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 5 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action purports that the omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the polarized light separation means, the first polarization direction changing means and the second polarization direction changing means. In particular, the Office Action asserts that claims 1 and 5 recite a “second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of the polarized light separation means” which the Office Action asserts is unworkable. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of the polarized light separation means does serve a function, even though it may not affect the polarized light passing through. The first and second polarization direction changing means allow for compatibility of the eyeglass device with different types of stereoscopic image display apparatus (page 34, lines 15-18 and page 57, lines 7-10). Specifically, via the choice of the eyeglass device service condition, the eyeglass device may be compatible with different types of stereoscopic image display apparatus (Fig. 11 and 27). Hence, not only is the proposed eyeglass device with the second polarization direction changing means workable, but the second polarization direction changing means enables the compatibility of the eyeglass device with different types of stereoscopic image displays.

The Office Action also asserts that the specification fails to teach how reversing the first and second polarization direction changing means leftwardly and rightwardly or forwardly and backwardly makes the device operable. For clarification, the Applicants respectfully note that

the specification indicates that the eyeglass device can be used in a number of service conditions (as shown in Fig. 6 to 9), referred to as service conditions A, B, C and D. (page 25, lines 17-21). The specification also describes the operation of the eyeglass device in these different service conditions (page 25 line 22 – page 32 line 8).

In addition, the specification indicates how numerous reversing mechanisms may be utilized to place the eyeglass device into a desired service condition (page 38, lines 2-5). For example, the specification states that one such reversing mechanism allows for reversing the front and rear positions of the first and second polarization direction changing means (page 38, lines 6-14), and that this allows for an eyeglass device originally in service condition A to be placed in service condition B (page 39, lines 3-15). Conversely, the specification also states that this reversing mechanism allows for an eyeglass device in service condition B to be placed in service condition A (page 39, lines 16-19). Additionally, the specification also indicates how this reversing mechanism allows for reversing the eyeglass device between service conditions C and D (page 39, line 20 – page 40, line 1).

Therefore, since the specification explains the functioning of the eyeglass device in different service conditions (page 25 line 22 – page 32 line 8), and also describes how reversing the front and rear positions of the first and second polarization direction changing means allows for the eyeglass device to be placed in different service conditions (page 39, lines 3-15), the specification does indeed describe how reversing the first and second polarization direction changing means forwardly and backwardly makes the eyeglass device operable.

Similarly, the specification states that another reversing mechanism allows for reversing the left and right positions of the first and second polarization direction changing means (page 40, lines 2-10), and therefore allows for an eyeglass device originally in service condition A to be placed in service condition C (page 40, line 23 – page 41, line 13). Conversely, the specification also states that this reversing mechanism allows for an eyeglass device in service condition C to be placed in service condition A (page 41, lines 14-17). Additionally, the specification also indicates how this reversing mechanism allows for reversing the eyeglass device between service conditions B and D (page 41, line 18-23).

Therefore, since the specification explains the functioning of the eyeglass device in different service conditions (page 25 line 22 – page 32 line 8), and also describes how reversing

the left and right positions of the first and second polarization direction changing means allows for the eyeglass device to be placed in different service conditions (page 40, line 23 – page 41, line 13), the specification does indeed describe how reversing the first and second polarization direction changing means leftwardly and rightwardly makes the eyeglass device operable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-4, 5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT publication WO 95/00872 (“Rosencwaig”). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Rosencwaig teaches a stereoscopic vision system including a pair of glasses positioned over the viewer’s eyes including two lenses 140 and 146 (Fig. 4) . The first lens 140 consists of a birefringent retarder 142 that rotates the polarization of light striking the lens by -90° . The retarder is followed by a linearizing polarizer 144 orientated at 90° relative to the display polarizer. The second lens 146 includes only a linearizing polarizer 148 that is also orientated 90° relative to the display polarizer (page 7, lines 14-23). Rosencwaig is completely silent as to a second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said polarized light separation means.

The Office Action purports that the claims fail to provide the logical relationship as to how the second polarization direction changing means cooperates with the other elements in the claims to make the device operable. Furthermore, the Office Action asserts that since the second polarization direction changing means does not supposedly affect the operation of the polarizing eyeglasses in the viewing of the stereoscopic vision, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to add an additional optical element that does not effect the function. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As noted previously, the second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of the polarized light separation means does serve a function, even though it may not affect the polarized light passing through. The first and second polarization direction changing means allow for compatibility of the eyeglass device with

different types of stereoscopic image display apparatus (page 34, lines 15-18 and page 57, lines 7-10). Specifically, via the choice of the eyeglass device service condition, the eyeglass device may be compatible with the type of stereoscopic image display apparatus (Fig. 11 and 27). Hence, the second polarization direction changing means enables the compatibility of the eyeglass device with different types of stereoscopic image displays.

Claim 1 recites a polarizing eyeglass device for use with a stereoscopic image display apparatus, the stereoscopic image device comprising an image display screen having first areas and second areas in which pieces of image information corresponding to a parallax are displayed individually, a polarizing plate disposed in an opposing relationship to said image display screen, and phase difference plates adhered to a front face of said polarizing plate at positions corresponding to the first areas or the second areas of said image display screen for changing the polarization direction; said polarizing eyeglass device comprising polarized light separation means for separating particular polarized light, said polarized light separation means including a first viewing region to be used for viewing with one of the left and right eyes and a second viewing region to be used for viewing with the other one of the left eye and the right eye, first polarization direction changing means adhered to a first face of said polarized light separation means in the first viewing region and second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said polarized light separation means in the second viewing region.

Nowhere does Rosencwaig teach or suggest a second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said polarized light separation means in the second viewing region, as recited in claim 1. Therefore claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Rosencwaig and is in allowable condition.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claim 5 recites a polarizing eyeglass device for use with a stereoscopic image display apparatus, the stereoscopic image device comprising an image display screen having first areas and second areas in which pieces of image information corresponding to a parallax are displayed individually, a polarizing plate disposed in an opposing relationship to said image display screen, and phase difference plates adhered to a front face of said polarizing plate at positions corresponding to the first areas or the second areas of said image display screen for changing the

polarization direction, said polarizing eyeglass device, comprising polarized light separation means for separating particular polarized light, said polarized light separation means including a first viewing region to be used for viewing with one of the left and right eyes and a second viewing region to be used for viewing with the other one of the left eye and the right eye, first polarization direction changing means adhered to a first face of said polarized light separation means in the first viewing region or the second viewing region, and second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said polarized light separation means in the first viewing region or the second viewing region to which said first polarization direction changing means is adhered.

Nowhere does Rosencwaig teach or suggest a second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said polarized light separation means in the first viewing region or the second viewing region to which said first polarization direction changing means is adhered, as recited in claim 5. Therefore claim 5 patentably distinguishes over Rosencwaig and is in allowable condition.

Claims 6-9 depend from claim 5 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

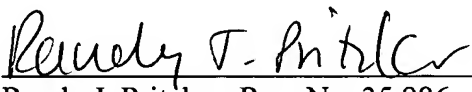
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully note that if the reasoning pertaining to the purpose and functioning of the second polarization direction changing is not clear, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Applicants would be grateful to the Examiner for such an opportunity to discuss the detailed functioning of the eyeglass device via a more conducive medium, and would like to thank the Examiner in advance for his time and consideration.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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